

Mayors for Peace laments the passing of Councillor Bill Risby

Councillor Bill Risby of Manchester, who worked devotedly for Mayors for Peace passed away on February 16 after a traffic accident. On behalf of the organization, President Akiba issued the following statement below to his family. We are all praying for the peaceful repose of his soul.

I am writing on behalf of the people of Hiroshima and the 2,708 members of Mayors for Peace to express our deep sorrow and sympathy. Bill was a very special Mayor for Peace. As Lord Mayor and as councilman, he consistently supported our organization and our movement. It was in Manchester in 2003 that Mayors for Peace crafted and launched the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons that has led to a five-fold increase in membership. At our Executive Conferences and our General Conferences, we could always count on Bill to be present, to contribute positively to the program, and keep us all in good spirits.

Bill was always constructive and helpful, but what we will miss most are his cheerful humor and his ability to make us all feel that we are friends - friends of his, and friends to each other. He had a rare talent for authentic warmth.

Mayors for Peace are grateful for his tremendous contribution to us and to our common cause. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and know that he was loved and will be missed on the other side of the world.

*February 19, 2009
Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor of Hiroshima
President
Mayors for Peace*